

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO\*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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#### From Some Editorial Notes:

**To County Secretaries.**—This year it is particularly important that all reports of membership should be sent to the secretary of the State Society as early in January as possible—and more important that they should be accurate. The medical defense feature of the State Society is extended only to those members who have their dues fully paid up, and therefore are in good standing in their county society. If a member is delinquent for three or four months, he is not in good standing during that period of time, and should any act of his during that period result in a subsequent suit for malpractice it could not be defended by the State Society. . . .

**You Can Help Us.**—You can help the State Society and your *Journal*, and therefore incidentally help yourself, by taking an active interest in the advertising pages of the *Journal*. Look over the advertisements each month; see what is newly offered; use the advertising pages as a sort of directory for firms from whom you buy things or for sanatoriums to which to send patients. Other things being equal, make your purchases from those firms who help to support your *Journal* by advertising in its pages—and let them know that you do so. . . .

**Experiments on Animals.**—The "antivivisectionist" may possibly draw awful pictures of frightful dog agony and human brutality, etc., etc., from an article which appears in this issue from the pen of Doctor Bunnell, and based upon research work done by him in the laboratory of Doctor Crile. Never was a more clear-cut example of the value to humanity of animal experimentation. . . .

**The Treatment of Wounds.**—In the report of the Twenty-first Congress of French Surgeons, Dupuy of Paris publishes an interesting account of his experiences with the electric light in the treatment of large wound surfaces which have proved rebellious to other methods. He induces hyperemia by employing a thirty-candle-power lamp placed ten centimeters from the wound. . . .

**From an article on "The Problem Presented by the Tuberculous Railway Employee" by Robert A. Peers, M.D., Colfax.**

I do not know when or where the first hospital association for the care of sick and injured railway employees was formed, nor is it relevant to the subject-matter of the paper I have to present to you this afternoon. It is, however, pertinent to say that today practically every corporation, railways, steamship companies, steel plants, mining and lumbering companies, has established for the care of its sick and injured a hospital or benefit association whereby each member, for a certain stated monthly sum subtracted from the wages by the corporation, is guaranteed in case of illness or injury the necessary nursing and medical attention with accommodation in the hospitals of the company, without further expense. . . .

\* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA\*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

#### News

"Dr. Mae Wilson, woman physician, yesterday was acquitted of second degree murder, growing out of the death of 22-year-old Lucille Gooden over an asserted illegal operation. Superior Judge Desmond dismissed the case on the grounds of insufficient evidence." (Los Angeles *Times*, December 6, 1934.)

"Health officials join physicians today in a campaign against fat-reducing remedies, following the death of three-year-old Edward Moore, 219 Kelsey Street, Richmond, who mistook some pills for candy. . . . Federal Pure Food and Drug officials here were also expected to enter the investigation. The young boy was literally 'burned to death' after taking the compound, hospital authorities reported. Other victims have been reported during the last few months. Last year Dr. Hans Gessner was a victim." (San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, December 6, 1934.)

"In Fort Payne, Alabama, several weeks since, an eight-year-old son of parents who belong to a faith-healing cult, developed an infection of the leg and was near death. The parents steadfastly refused to allow the boy to be removed to a hospital for treatment, but under threat of prosecution grudgingly allowed a physician to come to the home and scrape several inches of the bone in the infected area. While the doctor worked over the boy with the aid of an oil lamp, members of the cult kept up a constant chant in a strange tongue. Now the boy is improving and is able to walk, although with a pronounced limp. The physicians say he will recover completely in time. With his cure assured, members of the cult take full credit for it, holding that by their efforts the evil spirits were chased from the boy's leg. Since the boy is well, it will make little difference who gets the credit, but the average person will prefer to have the spirits chased out of his body with the aid of a competent physician. Moreover, any parent believing in faith healing who withholds medical aid to children, should be prosecuted." (Sacramento *Bee*, December 4, 1934.)

"Holding that the evidence introduced before the State Board of Medical Examiners did not warrant the revocation of the license of George W. Fuller to practice medicine and surgery, Superior Judge Wilson has modified the judgment so as to carry a reprimand instead of loss of license. The court made its ruling after finding that there was sufficient evidence that the doctor had violated the Medical Practice Act through issuing of a pamphlet relating to non-operative treatment of hernia. . . ." (Los Angeles *Times*, December 10, 1934.)

"As far as the income tax was concerned, Dr. J. L. Lovell, physician (chiropractor), could not quite understand. Yesterday, after explaining he had no intention of evading payment of \$2,274 in income tax, Lovell was fined \$500 and given a suspended sentence of six months in jail. . . ." (Los Angeles *Illustrated Daily News*, December 4, 1934.)

\* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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